Preparatory Committee for the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

NPT/CONF.2000/PC.I/12
14 April 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

First session
New York, 7-18 April 1997

CLUSTER TWO

Submitted by Mongolia

Nuclear-weapon-free zones

1. Mongolia welcomes the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various parts of the world, as well as the ongoing efforts to establish new zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region or subregion concerned, which would promote global and regional peace and strengthen international security. In this respect, full support should be given to the creation of additional nuclear-weapon-free zones, including in the Central Asian subregion, by the time of the Review Conference in the year 2000, as expressed in the principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference.

2. Creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones within the boundaries of individual States complements the obligations undertaken by the States under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and, by prohibiting within such zones deployment of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices, the dumping of radioactive wastes and the like, they expand the geographical scope of nuclear-weapon-free zones.

3. Mongolia's declaration of its territory as a nuclear-weapon-free zone in 1992, which has been welcomed and supported by all nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States alike, has demonstrated that the creation of such zones within the boundaries of single States (single-state zones) is, in general, politically acceptable. For nuclear-weapon-free zones to be effective, irrespective of their geographical scope, they should be based on international agreement(s), have clearly defined rights and obligations of parties to such agreement(s), a system of verification and control to guarantee compliance with the obligations derived from such status, the assurances from parties to the agreements, etc. Therefore, in order for single-state zones to have equal legal basis with other zones, the objectives, purposes and principles, as well as the status of the zones, should be clearly defined in international agreement(s), taking duly into account the experience of other nuclear-weapon-free zones, as well as the specifics of single-state zones. The interests of neighbouring States should also be duly taken into account.

4. Bearing in mind the important role that single-state zones could play as concrete disarmament and confidence-building measures in widening the geographical scope of nuclear-weapon-free zones, and thus contributing to the objectives of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, Mongolia believes that the Preparatory Committee should focus specifically on this question and contribute to developing practical procedures in institutionalizing such forms of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at between the States concerned with their neighbours as well as the nuclear-weapon States.

5. The delegation of Mongolia is prepared to enter into consultations on this and related issues with other members of the Preparatory Committee and other participants of the sessions of the Committee.